

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 219309

62

ORIGIN SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 SY-05 FBO-02 A-01 USSS-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

OPR-02 SAM-01 /057 R

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P 152105Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 219309

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT:MODUS OPERANDI OF JRA TERRORISTS AT KUALA LUMPUR

REF: STATE 205257

1. WE ARE REPEATING TO YOU NEW DELHI 12225 WHICH REQUESTS INFORMATION ON THE MODUS OPERANDI OF THE JRA ATTACK AT KUALA LUMPUR. AS WE BELIEVE THE RESPONSE TO NEW DELHI'S QUESTIONS WOULD BE HELPFUL TO ALL POSTS IN THEIR REVIEW OF SECURITY PRECAUTIONS PER REFTEL, THE FOLLOWING HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR YOUR COMMENT AS TO ACCURACY AND COMPLETENESS BEFORE INCORPORATING INTO A MESSAGE TO ALL POSTS. THE OBJECTIVE OF SUCH A MESSAGE WOULD BE TO PROVIDE FACTS ABOUT HOW THE TERRORISTS LAUNCHED THEIR ATTACK AND GAINED CONTROL OF HOSTAGES.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 219309

2. A. LOCALE. THE SCENE OF THE ATTACK WAS THE 12-STORY

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL ASSURANCE (AIA) BUILDING. US EMBASSY OFFICES WERE LOCATED ON THE 9TH, 10TH, 11TH AND 12TH FLOORS AND IN THE PENTHOUSE.

B. DRESS. AT LEAST FOUR OF THE FIVE TERRORISTS WORE SUITS. IN THE COURSE OF THE ATTACK THEY USED GLOVES AND HOODS WHICH COVERED THEIR FACES EXCEPT FOR A BROAD SLIT FOR THEIR EYES. THEY CARRIED BAGS OF SOME SORT WHEN THEY ENTERED THE BUILDING.

C. MANNER OF ENTRY. THE FIVE TERRORISTS WALKED INTO THE AIA BUILDING AT ABOUT 10:00 A.M. AND TOOK AN ELEVATOR TO THE NINTH FLOOR WHERE THE OFFICES OF THE US CONSULATE, THE SWEDISH EMBASSY AND AN OFFICE OF AIA WERE LOCATED. THEY ENTERED THE CONSULAR SECTION WHERE THEY REVEALED THEIR WEAPONS FOR THE FIRST TIME AND TOOK CONTROL. SOME OF THE TERRORISTS THEN WENT INTO THE HALL TO SECURE THE REST OF THE FLOOR. SHOTS WERE FIRED WHEN PERSONS FROM OTHER FLOORS CAME TO SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON. AN UNARMED BUILDING GUARD WAS WOUNDED WHEN HE CAME UP FROM A LOWER FLOOR. SHOTS WERE ALSO FIRED WHEN EMBASSY PERSONNEL FROM THE FLOORS ABOVE ATTEMPTED TO ENTER THE NINTH FLOOR TO INVESTIGATE. THE GROUP INITIALLY CAPTURED IN THE CONSULATE, THE SWEDISH CHARGE AND HIS SECRETARY, SUBSEQUENTLY CAPTURED, AND PERSONS FROM THE AIA OFFICE (A TOTAL OF 53) WERE ALL HELD HOSTAGE IN THE SUITE OF OFFICES IN THE CONSULAR SECTION. THE TERRORISTS DISABLED ONE OF THE ELEVATORS AND BARRED THE STAIRCASE DOOR WITH BOARDS AND WIRES (CONSIDERABLE CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL WAS AVAILABLE AS RENOVATION WAS IN PROGRESS).

D. WEAPONS. THE TERRORISTS WERE ARMED WITH SIDE ARMS (9-MM), ONE APPARENTLY WITH A SILENCER, HAND GRENADES AND PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES.

E. PLANNING AND EXECUTION. THE JRA ATTACK EVIDENCED CAREFUL PLANNING AND EXECUTION. THE TERRORISTS WERE WELL ORGANIZED AND HIGHLY DISCIPLINED UNDER THEIR LEADER. THE LEADER SPOKE ENGLISH BUT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT ANY OF THE OTHER TERRORISTS DID. KISSINGER

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PAGE 03 STATE 219309

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